

PROFESSOR BORIS BABKIN

Some few months ago we had the pleasant opportunity of introducing to our readers Professors Collip and Penfield, who have come recently to Montreal and McGill University, and of giving a short account of their notable careers. Professor Collip comes from the University of Alberta and takes the Chair of Biochemistry, in the room of Professor A. B. Macallum, who has retired. Professor Penfield hails from the United States, having been on the staff of Columbia University, and occupies the new Chair of Neuro-Surgery. Now we have to welcome the latest arrival, Professor Boris Babkin, who has been appointed Research Professor of Physiology.

Boris Peter Babkin was born at Kursk, Russia. He graduated in medicine in 1901 and received his doctorate in 1904 from the Military Medical Academy of St. Petersburg. From 1902 to 1912 he was assistant to Professor I. P. Pavlov in the Department of Physiology, and also worked under E. Fischer and E. Hering. He became *Privat-Dozent* in Physiology at his old school in St. Petersburg in 1907; Professor of Animal Physiology at the Novo-Alexandria Agricultural Institute in 1912; Professor of Physiology in the University of Odessa in 1915. Being compelled to leave Russia during the last revolution, he took refuge in London and from 1922 to 1924 he worked there under the Medical Research Council. London University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science in 1925. In 1924 he was appointed Professor of Physiology at Dalhousie University, relinquishing that position to come to Montreal in the summer of last year. He is now a British subject.

Professor Babkin is the author of some forty monographs on subjects connected with the physiology of the alimentary and nervous systems, and of a book entitled "*Die äussere Secretion der Verdauungsdrüsen*," the second edition of which has just appeared.

Professor Collip has already won his spurs with his work on insulin and the physiology of the parathyroid glands; Professor Penfield brings to his new position much special knowledge and a ripe experience; Professor Babkin has the inspiration derived from his great teacher Pavlov and a personal record of much good work well done. All three have an international reputation. There is no doubt that the cause of research in Canada will be much furthered and that Canadian medicine cannot fail to be the richer through the labours of such eminent men.

A.G.N.

THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR A. A. MAXIMOW

On December 4, 1928, there died suddenly from sclerosis of the coronary arteries, A. A. Maximow, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Chicago. In the person of Maximow was

lost one of the most outstanding histologists as well as one of the greatest specialists in the histology and embryology of blood and connective tissue.

Maximow was born on January 22, 1874, in St. Petersburg, Russia. He graduated in 1896 from the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg, and received his M.D. degree in 1899. He received a grant from the Academy for the purpose of furthering his scientific studies, and spent 1900 to 1902 chiefly in Germany, working under O. Hertwig in Berlin, and E. Ziegler in Freiburg-in-Breisgau. Under Ziegler he published the first of his classical experimental studies on the morphology of the various types of inflammation. On his return to St. Petersburg he was appointed, in 1904, Professor of Histology and Physiology at the Military Medical Academy. Here he continued his work on inflammation, but soon branched out into the study of the normal connective tissue, and thus began his life work, on the intimate relationships between the blood and connective tissue under normal, embryological, and pathological conditions. He made much use of the method of tissue culture. In this way he studied most of the organs of the body, and investigated many pathological problems, such as tuberculosis and anaphylaxis. His last experiments were on collagen formation *in vitro*. Death interrupted this most interesting study.

The characteristic feature of Maximow's work is the combination of morphological study with experiment. He was not only a most able histologist, but possessed a great skill in experimentation. He was so great an authority on problems of the blood and connective tissue that in every first class histological handbook his articles on these subjects may be found.

In 1912, Professor Maximow received the degree of D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) from Trinity College, Dublin, and last summer he received the Kummel medal from the University of Hamburg. He was a member of the Leopoldina of Halle. Since 1922 he has been Professor of Anatomy in the University of Chicago. This last post he obtained after a dramatic flight from Bolshevik Russia, when he crossed with his wife and sister the Bay of Finland in midwinter.

B. BABKIN

THE WHITE MAN IN THE PACIFIC

The spread of western civilization has not always been accompanied by the blessings which we are accustomed to think it should convey. This has recently been emphasized by a survey of the health conditions amongst natives of the Pacific islands by Dr. S. M. Lambert of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Lambert's conclusions are not as extreme in pessimism as have been those of other writers, for he states that the available evidence indicates that the natives of the Pacific